HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 141517 PRINTER: LI
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R 141929Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
USINT HAVANA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7609
E.O. 12065: GDS 10/14/86 (HAVERKAMP, R)OR-M
TAGS: PFOR, CU, JM
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADER STATES CUBAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE EXPELLED
REF: KINGSTON 7518

1. (U) IN AN OCTOBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA STATED THAT CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA ULISES ESTRADA WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF THE JLP WINS THE ELECTIONS. SEAGA RECALLED THAT THE PREVIOUS JLP GOVERNMENT HAD REFUSED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH CUBA WHEN PRESSURED TO DO SO IN CONNECTION WITH JAMAICA'S ENTRY INTO THE OAS. HE SAID A JLP GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA BUT WOULD NOT MAINTAIN A PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONSHIP BECUASE OF CUBA'S BIAS TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP). SEAGA ALSO SAID JAMAICA'S FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA WOULD BE AFFECTED BY HAVANA'S CONDUCT DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JAMAICA ELECTIONS

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AND CLAIMED THAT MOST OF THE CAMPAIGN LITERATURE OF THE PNP HAD BEEN PRINTED IN CUBA.

2. (C) COMMENT. SEAGA AND OTHERS IN HIS PARTY HAVE ATTACKED ESTRADA BEFORE BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE OPPOSITION LEADER HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE WOULD EXPEL THE CUBAN DIPLOMAT. GIVEN ESTRADA'S CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH PRIMIN MANLEY AND SENIOR PNP OFFICIALS AND HIS OPEN FAVORITISM TOWARD THE PNP (SEE REFTEL), WE DOUBT THAT HAVANA WOULD WANT TO KEEP HIM HERE IF THE JLP WINS. (ESTRADA IS IMPROVING THE SECURITY AT HIS RESIDENCE, WHERE A NEW WALL HAS RECENTLY BEEN BUILT.) THE CUBANS MAY NOT GIVE SEAGA THE PLEASURE OF EXPELLING ESTRADA AND COULD WELL RECALL HIM AND PERHAPS OTHER CUBAN DIPLOMATS HERE PRIOR TO ANY INVITATION TO

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LEAVE THE ISLAND. SEAGA'S STATEMENT POINTS TO A COOLING OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS ONE OF THE FIRST FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE.

3. (C) SEAGA'S CLAIM THAT PNP CAMPAIGN LITERATURE HAS BEEN PRINTED IN CUBA APPEARS TO BE POLITICAL HYPERBOLE. JAMAICAN PRINTERS ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF MEETING PNP PRINTING NEEDS. WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS OF CUBAN PRINTING IN PNP MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, NOR HAVE WE HEARD ANY ALLEGATIONS OF THIS PREVIOUSLY.

LAWRENCE

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